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THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST — Pa.

Why, What and Where

L. L. Bishop, Forest Supervisor.

The late Lord Northcliffe, after his last tour of the United States, said, "The one dominant thing about the United States of America which stands out in bold relief is her people's wanton waste of their natural resources. I mean particularly their forests, and if America does not look up and immediately realize the necessity of conserving and reforestation, she will not only bankrupt herself but endanger the world".

To a large degree this statement answers the question that asks why certain States are acquiring state forests and why the Federal Government is buying land for the establishment of National Forests in the East. A few of the details as to our timber status are:-

Approximately 3/4ths of the virgin timber of the country has been used or destroyed; we are using timber products about six times as fast as such products are being produced by growth; Pennsylvania, which for forty years headed the list of timber producing states, now stands 20th and produces but 1/5th of the amount used within the state, 4/5ths now comes from outside sources. Pennsylvania's timber requirements, like those for the nation as a whole, are increasing. Her supply has been used with but little thought
as to the future, with the result that the lumber industry has had to move on leaving in its wake areas of desolation and abandoned settlements.

During the past fourteen years the Government has been carrying forward a forest land purchase program that looks towards the establishment of a system of National Forests throughout Eastern United States. Twelve such Forests have been proclaimed and yearly their area is being extended through the acquisition of additional lands.

One of the twelve Eastern National Forests, the "Allegheny", is located in Pennsylvania. Five years ago the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania invited the Federal Government to establish a forest within the State and thus join forces with the Commonwealth in the vital work of forest conservation.

For the location of the National Forest project, it was necessary to find a locality that offered an opportunity to acquire, at reasonable prices, a large and well consolidated area of productive forest land. In accordance with the federal statute making provision for the work, the forests were to be located on the headwaters of navigable streams. Many desirable locations within the state were already being developed by the Commonwealth through the purchase of forest land for State Forests, two and a quarter million acres having been acquired for this purpose. It was not desirable that the Federal Government enter a locality where the State was already at work.
Everything considered no other place seemed to meet all requirements nearly so well as the area which has since come to be the Allegheny National Forest. Four years work within the chosen locality has been productive of very gratifying progress.

The Forest includes parts of four Northwestern Pennsylvania counties as follows: southeastern Warren, western McKean, western Elk and all but the western end of Forest County. The gross area of the Forest is 749,000 acres, entirely within the headwater catchment basin of the Allegheny River. The principal tributary streams affected are Clarion River, Tionesta Creek (entirely within the Forest) and Kinzua Creek. The boundary of the Forest may be briefly described as follows: Beginning at Warren on the Allegheny River, thence south with the river to Tionesta, thence east to the town of Marienville, thence south to the Clarion River at the town of Clarington, thence up the river to the Borough of Ridgway, thence north to the city of Bradford and the New York State line, thence west with the state line and the south boundary of New York Allegheny State Park to the Allegheny River, thence down the river to Warren, the point of beginning.

From many standpoints the history of the Allegheny National Forest region is of great interest. Geologically it is a portion of the Appalachian Plateau. The stream dissections of this plateau give the region the ridge and valley type of topography. The ridges are in the main broad and comparatively
level on top. Most of the valleys are narrow, rather deep and bounded by steep walls. The elevation ranges from about 1200 feet above sea level along the larger stream courses to 1900 feet on the plateau top. The region is a part of the Mississippi drainage basin, though it is but a few miles from one of the Great Lakes. Prior to the Glacial Ages the drainage was to the north and west into Lake Erie. Glacial deposits brought the present anomalous drainage plan.

The political history of the region is no less interesting than is its geological past.

The name Allegheny is derived from Allegheri, which was the name of the Indian tribe that formerly lived in the territory. This tribe had possession of the region when the Iroquois came from west of the Mississippi and drove them out. The Allegheri disappeared down the river and all trace of them was lost.

The Iroquois, or Five Nations, was a confederation of tribes occupying the country stretching from Albany to Lake Ontario at the time of the coming of the white man. The tribes forming this confederation were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. The Senecas lived in the region in which the forest is now located.

The territory inhabited by the Five Nations lay between the French and English Colonies, the possession of which was long contended for by them. As the French gradually pushed west and south from their base at Quebec, along the Great Lakes they came
in contact with the English who had crossed the Allegheny Plateau. When the French realized that the territory south of the Great Lakes and west of the Allegheny Divide fell within the same drainage system as that of Louisiana, there colony in the South, they conceived the idea of laying claim to all the territory west of the divide, thereby connecting the two provinces of Quebec and Louisiana.

The English had settled the region along the Atlantic Coast from Massachusetts to South Carolina and had gradually pushed their settlements back until the barrier formed by rugged Allegheny Mountain Ranges was reached. For a long time no attempt was made at settlement of the region beyond this point; it was visited only by exploring or hunting parties. The great danger of hostile Indians and the difficulty of transportation, and communication across the mountains with the Colonies, made any attempt at settling in the region one attended with many difficulties.

The explorations of the French differed greatly from those of the English, in that they were the more interested in developing trade with the Indians, particularly trade in furs. The fur trade in the north was a source of great wealth and was the principal thing which carried the French explorers into the wilderness as had the lust for gold the Spanish Conquerors of Mexico under Cortes.

Gradually the French pushed west and established a chain of forts and trading posts along the Great Lakes and on the headwaters of the Allegheny River. In 1749 a French exploring
party from Montreal in canoes, paddled up the St. Lawrence River across Lake Ontario, portaged around the Falls at Niagara, then down Lake Erie to a point opposite the head of Lake Chautauqua. From here they portaged across the low ridge into Lake Chautauqua and traveled down this into the Geneswango Creek and on down the Allegheny River to the Ohio. They continued down the Ohio as far as the mouth of the Great Kanawha in what is now West Virginia. They carried a number of metal plates and signs announcing that they laid claim to the territory in the name of the Crown of France and warned the few English settlers to take notice thereof. They posted at conspicuous places along the route.

Following this expedition, the French during the next few years established a chain of forts along the Allegheny River, the most southern of which was Duquesne at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela River where Pittsburgh now stands.

Becoming alarmed at the advance of the French, the Colonies and the home Government in England were finally aroused to action and began to formulate plans to gain possession of the disputed territory. Governors Dinwiddie of Virginia and Shalby of Massachusetts were the most active leaders in the undertaking. Their efforts finally resulted in the home Government sending General Braddock to the aid of the Colonies. His disastrous attempt in company with Washington to capture Fort DuQuesne is well known history. The operations which followed in the region
of the Great Lakes on Lake Champlain, including the famous Fort Ticonderoga and the capture of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759, brought about the end of French power.

During the struggle for this vast territory the Iriquois played a most important part in the history of the country. Occupying as they did the region between the two contestants, they were a vital factor in the conflict. A treaty between the English and these Indians was negotiated at about the time the conflict began and was never broken by them during the trying period which followed. Their loyalty to the Canadians extended through the period of the American Revolution.

The French by allying themselves with Indian tribes which were enemies of the Iriquois gained the hostility of that nation and were greatly harassed by them during the entire period of their operations. The Iriquois made several attacks on Montreal and Quebec and made continuous war on the French traders. The French after finding it impossible to defeat the Iriquois by force of arms, resorted to diplomacy. Every kind of intrigue was tried to wean them from their alliance to the English, but without success, though the patience of the Indians was sorely tried by the incompetency shown by their allies during the first years of the struggle.

If it had not been for the aid rendered the English Colonies the map of North America might not have been as it is today. The Canadian boundary would probably have been a considerable distance south of where it now is. The French would
certainly have remained in control of Canada for a much longer period.

The descendents of these Indians now reside in two reservations along the Allegheny River, one in Pennsylvania a few miles above Warren, Complanter Indian Reservation, the other just above the state line in New York, the Allegheny Indian Reservation.

Industrially the Allegheny region has had an interesting career. As early as 1800 saw mills were operating in Warren County. Millions of feet of the finest eastern white pine formed the base of a large lumber industry. The logs were cut, made into rafts and floated down the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh and beyond. The vast stands of hemlock which once clothed the region formed the principal source of tannin supply for a great number of tanneries which were located here so as to be near that source.

In 1899, within a few miles of what is now the Allegheny National Forest oil was discovered and the petroleum industry founded. There are thousands of producing oil and gas wells within the forest, many of them on lands which have been acquired by the Government.

It was within such a region that on October 21, 1921 the U. S. Forest Service authorized the negotiation of land purchases within the Allegheny National Forest boundary and the work has been carried steadily forward since. There have been examined some 300,000 acres of land, of this total approximately
197,000 acres have been negotiated for and approved for purchase. It is expected that during the fall and winter (1925-26) action will be taken upon about 75,000 acres which are definitely under consideration.

The first tract offered for sale to the United States in Pennsylvania was an area of 32,000 acres of cutover land owned by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The tract was acquired at the price of $2.50 per acre. The average price of the 197,000 acres thus far approved for purchase has been $3.00 per acre, or a total of more than $570,000. The range of prices has been from $1.00 to $10.00 per acre. The price is fixed in accordance with the condition of the land, that is, whether or not it has been damaged by forest fires, and whether or not the land carries advanced timber growth. Thus far the policy has been to very largely restrict purchases to the cheaper classes of land. By so doing it is possible to more quickly extend the influence of the work over a large area and to build up a practicable and economical administrative and protective unit in the shortest length of time.

In addition to the purchase price of the land the Government is put to considerable expense in connection with carrying the various trades through to consummation. All lands are carefully examined, mapped and reported upon, after the National Forest Reservation Commission approves their purchase, an accurate survey is made and the titles are very thoroughly investigated and a complete abstract of title prepared.
Following a policy of buying first the cheap lands has resulted in the purchases being scattered quite generally throughout the Forest. As additional purchases are made the lands are blocking in and assuming satisfactory form. It is expected that within the next eight or ten years the purchase work will be carried forward to the point of Government ownership reaching a total of from 500,000 to 600,000 acres. It will never be practicable or desirable that the Government own all the land within the forest boundary. Much of it is more valuable for purposes other than timber production and can be best advantage be privately owned and managed. There is a total of about 50,000 acres of agricultural land within the Forest, two State Game Preserves, and one large municipal watershed. There is no necessity for Government ownership of such areas.

In the establishment of National Forests in the East by buying areas of forest land, it is the policy of the Government to trade in the open land market. For the purposes intended the federal power of eminent domain could be invoked. It is the policy, however, to buy only such lands as are offered for sale by the owner and with whom price agreement can be reached. In some instances for the purpose of clearing up any title defects, with the permission of the owner, what is referred to as friendly condemnation is entered into. Through such a procedure the land owners receive pay for the property through the court and the court issues to the Government perfect title to the land.

With but one or two minor exceptions the Government has not obtained any title to the underground resources, all gas,
oil and mineral rights are excepted and reserved when the land is sold to the United States. Such rights are in no way necessary to the satisfactory working out of the National Forest program and the vendors are encouraged to retain and develop them. The establishment of the forest and the acquisition of a large area of land is a benefit to the gas and oil industry in various ways. Upon the forest will be produced and made available for use such timber products as the industry may require. For example, fuel wood, and sills, rig timbers and the like; the Forest Service policy is to build roads into the remote sections of the Forest; by disposing of their land to the Government, a gas or oil company is able to somewhat reduce their investment and carrying charges; the greatest advantage, however, comes through the fact that the Government affords its land a high degree of fire protection and the gas and oil industry is to a considerable degree dependant upon such protection.

It is not alone the gas and oil industry that it is intended that the National Forest benefit. Every industry and each settler of the region should either directly or indirectly be benefited by the working out of the project. The policy in accordance with which the administration of the Forest is guided is that "Each acre of land and each forest resource shall be put to the use that it is best suited to serve, having in mind the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run". In keeping with this policy any areas of National Forest land that are suitable for farming, for summer home sites, camp grounds, municipal watersheds, rail roads, pipe lines, or transmission lines are
available for such purposes. The Forest is open to the public for hunting, fishing, camping, touring and other forms of recreational use. Timber that is produced upon the forest is for use and can be obtained under reasonable provisions.

Though the production of revenue is not the principle idea back of the National Forest program, it is expected that the Forests will pay their own way. This is made possible by the sale of saw logs and other forest products and the leasing of areas for special uses. On the basis of the forest being self sustaining, there will accrue as profit to the public very great, though indirect, benefits, benefits which will in no way preclude the production of repeated crops of forest products. It will necessarily be years before the Alleghany Forest can be self sustaining. This on account of the fact that in the main the lands acquired are devoid of advanced timber growth. In many instances the tracts purchased had been repeatedly burned over and it will require a great many years of protection to bring them into productive status. In such instances it will, of course, be long before a money return on the investment can be expected, forty to seventy-five years perhaps. However, in the end the investment should show a profit. Each year that the land is protected from fire brings it that much nearer the harvest and each year its value is increased through the increase in productive capacity which results when fire is kept out. The longer the harvest is delayed, the more valuable the products will be. One can say what the stumpage value
of a cord of paper pulp wood or a thousand feet of veneer logs will be in the year 2000? The Government's investment in timber producing land is computed on the basis of the purchase price plus the costs of acquiring, at 4% compound interest, plus the cost of administration and protection, also at compound interest.

The Allegheny region as a whole is usually computed as to production on the basis of one cord of wood or 500 board feet of saw logs per acre per annum. This, of course, is the average for a long term of years. The returns are usually a combination of two or more products. Chemical cord wood can be grown in forty years, saw logs require nearer 100 years. The best practice is to make intermediate cutting of part of the timber for cord wood and other small sized timber products, allowing the best trees to grow to produce large poles, saw logs, etc. Average present day stumpage values are - cord wood $1.00 per cord, saw logs $10.00 per thousand board feet.

The Government does not pay state or local taxes on National Forest lands. In lieu of such taxes, however, 35% of the gross receipts of a forest go into local road, school and bridge funds. Once a forest reaches the point where approximately as much material is sold each year as the area produces by growth, the 35% will be much more than taxes on similar land.

Though the revenue which comes from the sale of timber products is of importance, it is by no means all of the picture. The industry which will result from the use of the products will
amount to much more than the value of the stumpage. Let us take for example the case of a cord of chemical wood, which is about the lowest class of forest product. The stumpage itself is worth say $1.00. It costs $2.00 to get it out and piled, $2.50 to get it hauled to the railroad and loaded on the car, $1.50 freight to the chemical plant and $4.00 labor to run it through the plant. The finished products - charcoal, alcohol and acetate of lime are worth from $12.00 to $15.00. Thus it appears that the stumpage which made the rest of the story possible, is the least valuable part of the operation. In the case of saw timber the comparison is still more striking.

The aim of the Forest management plan will be the production of the greatest amount of material of the highest class in the shortest length of time. Permanent industries and communities are desired. Material will be sold only as fast as more is produced by growth. In other words, once the plan get going, that amount of stumpage will be sold each year that can be sold every year. If the Forest comes to be made up of 500,000 acres and the average yearly growth per acre is one half cord of wood and two hundred and fifty board feet of saw timber; then there could be sold each year 250,000 cords of wood and 125,000,000 feet of logs. This will be raw material enough to furnish a large number of wood working industries. The plan will be to market approximately the same amount of stumpage each year. Small continuous operation will be given preference. Stable industrial conditions will be thus encouraged.
The importance of producing and making available for use a continuous supply of forest products is realized when one stops to consider the number of local industries that are dependant upon the forest for their raw material. There are located within or adjacent to the Forest scores of such industrial plants—such as, furniture factories, saw mills, tanneries, chemical plants, handle factories, planing mills and the like. The more of the material needed by these plants that can be produced locally the longer the plants can be assured a supply. It is necessary that we grow all the timber we can and in addition make the very best use of what we now have and shall be able to produce.

The ideal towards which the Forest Service works is the presence throughout the Forest of as many permanent communities and settlers as the region and resources will satisfactorily support. It is never desirable to depopulate the Forest. Men are needed to aid in the protection and development of the area and to work up the material grown. Resident labor is much the more satisfactory.

During the period between the time that the land is purchased and the harvesting of a crop of timber products, it is serving many important, though incidental, purposes. A few of the principle benefits will be mentioned.

The relationship between forests and stream flow is most definite—the results of forest demudation are inescapable. The effects of a forested watershed may be summed up in a few words
as follows: A forest cover means more water in streams during low water stages, less water in them during flood periods, less erosion of hill-side lands and less sediment, sand, gravel and debris carried by the streams. A forest cover, whether composed of immature or mature trees, is the very best kind of protection for a watershed. The destruction of forest conditions on stream catchment areas is largely responsible for the occurrence of disastrous floods during wet periods and for the failure of streams during dry weather. As forest conditions are reestablished on the Allegheny River watershed, the flow of the river will become more uniform.

The protection of watersheds is important not only on account of flood conditions, but also in connection with providing an ample and satisfactory water supply for domestic and municipal use. Water taken from a forested area is cooler, purer and more palatable than that obtained from non-forested catchment basins. During periods of dry weather the flow is much greater from the wooded watershed. Many cities and towns draw their supply from streams within National Forests. About one half of Warren’s supply comes from Morrison Run which is entirely within the Allegheny National Forest, and similarly Sheffield, Kane, Ridgway, Edinboro, Marienville, Tionesta, Kinzua and Bradford. The latter owns and protects its watershed and thus has very carefully safeguarded its water supply.

While the Allegheny National Forest is producing a crop of timber and protecting the watershed it will be admirably suited to and available for recreational purposes. A forested region is most appealing to those who seek out of door recreation.
Within the Forest are to be found many beautiful and interesting places. For example Hermit Springs, Laffemburger Hill, Morrison Run, Kinzua Road and Coal Knob Tower. The virgin white pine and hemlock forest, "Hearts Content", in the Eeeler and Dusenbury tract, Warren County, is the finest and one of the very few remaining samples of old growth pine and hemlock in the whole East. It is a wonderfully inspiring sight.

The drive along the Allegheny River from the New York State line near Corydon, passing Kinzua, Warren, Tidewater and to Tionesta, thence up Tionesta Creek to Sheffield and to Warren is one of the most beautiful in America. The route can be varied at points, and during the dry portion of the year, usually from April to November, the trip can be made with safety and in comfort in a single day. There are at least 500 miles of good earth roads within or immediately adjacent to the National Forest. The system is being extended and improved as rapidly as practicable. The Forest Service has to date built some 20 miles of earth road.

There has been a noticeable lack of appreciation of the recreational possibilities of the Allegheny region. The area is well stocked with game and the streams can be developed to the point where they will rank with the best fishing streams in the East.

It is certain that the region is destined to become a very important recreational area. Within a radius of 125 miles of the National Forest there resides a population estimated at 8,000,000. The cities of Cleveland, Wheeling,
Hagerstown, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Elmira, Ithaca, Rochester, Buffalo and Toronto, together with all the smaller intervening cities, are within a one days motor trip of the Forest. With the further extension of the highway systems and the completion of the Allegheny purchase program increasing thousands will annually seek the region here to find pleasant and wholesome out of door recreation.

It is the policy to encourage the recreational use of the Forests. Such use does not preclude the growing of timber. Recreational use - hunting, fishing, camping, tearing, the etcetera - is one use that anyone, rich or poor, may make of the Forest. For those who wish to camp out public camp sites are prepared. Two such sites are now in use on the Allegheny. One at Sandstone Spring between Warren and Tidioute, the other at Loleta, seven miles south of Marienville.

In cooperation with the State Game Commission and the State Bureau of Fisheries, the hunting and fishing within the Forest is being improved. It is a well recognized fact that with but few exceptions the forest is the natural home of wild animals, and that but little in the way of wild life can persist after forest conditions disappear. In National Forest administration fish and game are considered forest resources and plans are made for their conservation and propagation.

While the Forest is functioning as a timber producing property, as a protection to watersheds and as a recreational area, it will at one and the same time be serving another very useful purpose. Sooner or later, and here in the East sooner,
forestry practices must be applied to all forest lands if our national timber requirements are to be provided for.

Forestry in America is one of the newer sciences. There yet remains a vast amount of experimental and research work to be done. On account of the length of time required to produce a forest such work must of necessity cover a span of years. Thus it is important that some organization that guarantees continuity concern itself with the working out of forestry problems. No agency is better fitted to do this than is the Federal Government.

It cannot be expected that the several states and the Federal Government will ever come to own sufficient land to provide for the timber needs of the nation. Especially is this true as regards the Eastern timber region. The National Forests of the East, few in number and comparatively small in size, will serve their greatest usefulness as experimental forests, proving grounds for forestry practices, and demonstration areas of what has been determined to be best in the management of wood lands. Actual examples are the most effective text books. The Allegheny Forest is characteristic of a very large forest region and what is found to be best for this forest can be applied elsewhere. Some of the things that must be worked out are:

- Thinnings - when, where and what sort are practicable?
- How can white pine reproduction be encouraged?
- What hardwood species are most desirable and how can the per cent of these be increased?
- White pine blister rust control -
- Salvage of blighted chestnut -
Increased yield -
Planting - when, where, how and species?
Better and more economical fire protection -

There are certain things that can prevent the carrying out of the program which has been started on the Allegheny. Should no more funds be available for buying land, or should no more land be offered for sale, the project would be seriously handicapped. If is not probable, however, that such conditions will obtain.

The chestnut blight disease is very rapidly invading the region and will beyond the possibility of a doubt kill all the chestnut. This is not serious because of the fact that chestnut is not here one of the most important species. There are relatively few chestnut trees on the Forest, and as they die other kinds will at once take their place. On such land as the Government now owns the policy is to sell the chestnut stumpage as rapidly as possible. A chestnut salvage operation is now in progress.

The white pine blister rust has been found in a county adjoining the National Forest. This disease is certain death to the white pine unless all goose-berry and current plants, both cultivated and wild, are destroyed within or near the pine timber. Such eradication has been proven to be practicable. However, white pine does not in this region make up a large part of the second growth timber and a valuable forest could be produced if no pine at all was grown.

In the original forest of the region white pine and hemlock were the predominating species. These reached very
large size and produced material of the highest quality and value. Interspersed with the pine and hemlock were such hardwood species as beech, birch, maple, cherry, ash and cucumber, all of which grew to large size and have been extensively used for the production of high grade lumber. In the original forest white pine trees were found 5 feet in diameter and more than 1½ feet tall, maple trees 100 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter. From the standpoint of forest growth, the productive capacity of the region is very high.

Whereas the virgin stand was largely composed of evergreen trees, in the second growth forests, the stands are made up almost entirely of the hardwood species, beech, birch, maple, cherry, ash, etcetera. It appears that the reasons why a pine and hemlock stand when cut off is followed here by a hardwood stand are: There are present in any stand some hardwoods. Hardwoods sprout from stumps and roots, sending up a great number of sprouts just as soon as the mature timber is removed. Neither pine nor hemlock is capable of producing sprouts.

Hardwood trees, and hemlock as well, produce seed each year. Pine trees bear seed only once in each three to five years.

Hardwoods and hemlock seedling can survive when shaded by other growth, pine cannot.

One fire kills practically one hundred percent of pine and hemlock reproduction, hardwoods at once sprout and thus survive the fire.
While the chestnut blight and the white pine blister rust are serious enemies of the forest, and there may develop other fungus and insect pests, the one and arch enemy of forests is FIRE.

If the Allegheny National Forest does not come to be a factor in reducing floods and the conservation of water, it will be because of forest fires.

If the Allegheny National Forest does not come to be a national play place, an area offering exceptional recreational advantages, good hunting, fishing, camping, touring, etc., it will be because of recurrent forest fires.

If the Allegheny National Forest does not come to be a national forestry demonstration area, it will be because forest fires consume the examples of forestry practices.

If this region does not produce each year thousands of cords of wood and millions of board feet of timber upon which to base industrial progress, it will be because of forest fires.

In other words - to a very large degree the project stands or falls dependant upon our ability to prevent and suppress forest fires.

As evidenced by the areas of desolation throughout the Commonwealth, there have been far too many forest fires in Pennsylvania. Except for past fires, all outover lands would now bear wonderful second growth stands, many of them would now be of merchantable size. Forest fires have levied a staggering
tell upon the industrial development of this state. At an alarming rate we have been burning up the future.

Pennsylvania has long led among the states in the matter of forestry. The State Department of Forests and Waters maintains a state wide forest protection organization which has to a marked degree mitigated the curse of forest fires. However, until the general public becomes forest-minded, and realizes the seriousness of fires in the woods, and does its part to prevent and suppress them, the annual forest fire loss will be very great.

Practically all fires in Pennsylvania are man caused and thus preventable. It is much more economical to prevent fires than to put them out once they get started. The most common causes of fires are:

- Smokers dropping lighted material.
- Campers leaving camp fires.
- Brush burners letting fire escape.
- Engines improperly screened.
- Hunters smoking out game or bees.

Within the Allegheny National Forest very few fires are maliciously set. Occasionally fires are caused by lightning.

Every truly good citizen will see to it that he does not cause a forest fire and will take a constructive interest in seeing that others exercise the care that is necessary to protect our forests.

In the planning of the work on the National Forest protection is given priority. Within the means available, the highest degree of protection possible is aimed at. Lookout towers are built so that the fires may be promptly discovered and located, men and tools are stationed throughout the forest and every effort
is made to reach all fires quickly and put them out with the least amount of expense and loss. Roads are being built into the most remote sections so as to cut down travel time.

The objective of the Forest Service in fire control work is that not to exceed an average of 1/10 of 1% of the forest burn over each year. During the past two years there have been a total of 1486 acres of Government land burned over on the Allegheny National Forest, this out of an average of 170,000 acres. This is an average of 1/2 of 1%, far from our objective.

One of the principal Forest Service activities has to do with the development of public sentiment against forest fires. It is cheaper and more constructive to fight fires before they start, in other words keep them from starting. This is accomplished through various means of publicity, exhibits at fairs, printed folders, newspaper articles, signs and posters, moving pictures, talks, novelties and the like. It is gratifying, indeed, to know that such efforts are producing results and it is expected that forest fires will become more and more unpopular and hence fewer and fewer. It is noteworthy that a forest fire in continental Europe is an almost unheard of occurrence. There they would no more stand idly by and see a forest burn than they would a wheat crop. They have long since reached the time when they have to grow all the timber they have to use.

There are few areas within the Allegheny National Forest that have been so often and severely burned that they will not
satisfactorily restock themselves naturally if protected from fire in the future. The soil fertility and climatic conditions of the region are such as to result in very great recuperative capacity and high productivity. In most instances were planting attempted, the natural reproduction would get the start of the planted stock and crowd it out.

The Allegheny National Forest, one of 157 in the United States, all but 16 of which are located in the West, is under the administration of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Together with the Allegheny there are 15 other National Forests that go to make up the Eastern District with headquarters at Washington, D. C. Each Forest has its local headquarters and organization. Warren is the headquarters for the Allegheny Forest and at present the force is made up of a Forest Supervisor, L. L. Bishop; a Forest Clerk, Miss Mary E. Hamme; a Junior Forester, W. L. Stevens; an Examiner of Surveys, A. A. Riemer; a Forest Ranger, R. M. Conarre; and a Transitman, L. R. Strickenberg. The above officers serve under Civil Service appointments. They're assisted by such temporary assistants as fire guards, tower men, road builders, road men, axe men, compassmen and others as are necessary. The Warren offices of the Forest Service occupy the second and third floors of the Pierce Building, 304½ Third Avenue.

The Forest Supervisor is in general charge of the work of the Forest which includes the purchase of lands; the surveying and mapping of the lands acquired; the protection,
administration and development of acquired land; and the
general extension of forestry knowledge and practice.

The Forest Clerk is an office assistant having
charge of the files, accounts and office records.

The Junior Forester conducts field examinations of
and reports upon the lands which are considered for purchase.

The Forest Ranger’s first duty is in connection with
the protection of National Forest land from fire. He functions
as a general field superintendent as to all forest activities,
such as building roads, telephone lines, fire towers, cabins,
camp ground development, etcetera. He marks the timber that
is sold and sees to it that the purchasers carry out the provisions
of the sale agreements. He is expected to know the settlers
living within his district and to secure their cooperation in the
protection of the forest from fire.

It is the work of the Examiner of Surveys to accurately
survey, mark on the ground, and determine the acreage of all lands
which are approved for purchase. Working under his direction
are the Transitmen.

During seasons of fire danger fire lookout towers are
named by foresters whose duty it is to discover at once any fires
that start in the forest and to report the same immediately to
the Forest Supervisor, Ranger, or special Fire Guards who are in
readiness to take a crew of trained men to any fire discovered.

One of the important steps in the land purchase work
has to do with the examination of the titles to the areas that
are to be acquired. U. S. Title Attorney H. A. Lamprey, assisted
by Abstractor L. S. French, is assigned the title work on the

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Allegheny. The local title examiners work under the direction of the Solicitor, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Their headquarters are Warren, but much of their work must necessarily be done at the various county seats, Ridgway, Tionesta and Smithport. As in all Government work, great importance is placed upon absolute safety of title to the lands acquired.

As the area and work of the Allegheny Forest expands it will be necessary from time to time to increase the forest force. Within a few years there will, no doubt, be required a personnel much larger than the present.

In a very definite way a National Forest, The Allegheny National Forest, is public property. It is owned by the people, their tax money was used to buy the land and is being used to protect and develop it. It is intended that the benefits of the forest shall accrue to the public. It is expected that the forest benefit first the local settlers and industries, and then the general public. Except such benefit is brought about there is nothing to commend the project and it must of necessity fail. The more that the public knows about, is interested in, and takes advantage of, the National Forest, the greater will be its usefulness and success.

It is most important that the public come to feel the sense of ownership as to the Allegheny National Forest. In no other way will it be possible to satisfactorily protect and develop it. When the average citizen comes to realize that a fire in the forest is burning up his property, and that anyone who is responsible for fire in the woods is not only guilty in the
sight of the law but is inflicting injury upon him or every other citizen, then will it come to pass that the causing of a forest fire will be realized as the abhorrent thing it is. The Allegheny National Forest is your forest. Don't let it burn up! This is God's country but after it is burned up it looks like HELL.

In a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post the Editorial Writer said in part, "Today conservation of forest products is one of the chief necessities of national life. A nation cannot survive which wastes its patrimony through sheer carelessness. If there is any test of moral character it is ability to maintain the natural wealth of the Commonwealth. If we cannot do that our place will be lost...time to peoples that have at least the rudiments of sense. Each year the control of fire becomes a more serious problem. A solution must be found before many more years have passed. The nature of the solution will show up the stuff of which the American people are made."

The Allegheny National Forest is yours to use and enjoy but let us apply in its use that sense that will cause future generations to call this one "blessed."

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES

For additional information address - Forest Supervisor Warren, Pa.
End of Title
END OF REEL
PLEASE
REWIND